4. A Committee should be appointed, consisting of the Director of Industries, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and some influential merchants, to hold meetings in important mercantile centres and discuss the necessity of starting industrial concerns and forming companies.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

71. Need for the appointment of a Committee for suggesting measures to remedy the economic and commercial depression caused by the war.

Mr. Kunju Kadir Pillai (Member, Nominated) said that, as a result of the war, the prices of articles had gone very high. To relieve the economic and commercial depression thus caused, the Member suggested that the Directors of Agriculture, Industries, and Civil Supplies should co-operate with one another and form themselves into a Committee with five prominent agriculturists or merchants, one from each Division, and advise the Government on what lines relief measures should be taken.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

72. A living wage for Agricultural and other Industrial labourers.

Mr. N. Kumaran (Member, Nominated) represented that the wages that the labourers were getting in the State were very low and did not suffice for procuring the necessaries of life. Many labourers, therefore, emigrated to Ceylon and other parts and several were dying on account of starvation and disease. That was a serious economic loss to the State. The further development of the industries in the country depended on the conservation of labour. He, therefore, requested that a detailed enquiry might be conducted by Government regarding the daily wages paid to the labourers in each taluk, the purchasing power of the average income of the labourer in terms of the ordinary necessaries of life and the margin of saving that was absolutely necessary to sustain the labourers during times of famine, sickness, &c. As the Government had already prescribed the hire to be paid to jutka owners, cart owners, &c., he believed that there could be no difficulty in taking a similar step in regard to labourers.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

73. Facilities for the development of fish industries and Co-operative societies.

Mr. C. Raman Kunju (Member, Nominated) represented that the benefits of the Co-operative and Fisheries departments would have been better enjoyed by the people, if the Government had also taken steps to rouse the interest of the people. He regretted that there were only 45 Co-operative societies in the whole State and submitted that every impetus should be given to the development of fisheries through the Co-operative Department. He then made the following requests :—

1. The Central Bank should be always in a position to help the societies with funds. As the deposits from the public were not yet enough for the purpose, Government should give as loans to Primary Societies an amount equal to their collection.

2. The Chitties conducted by Co-operative societies should be exempted from the operation of the Chitties Regulation, as such Chitties would be always properly conducted under the careful management of a Committee.

3. Chitties of less than Rs. 100 in amount were exempted from the Regulation. In the interests of poor people it was necessary to bring them also under the purview of the Chitties Regulation.

4. Savings Banks should be established in all the Anchal Offices of the State.

5. Co-operative Societies should be allowed to remit their funds through Anchal money order free of commission. The concession now granted of obtaining remittance transfer receipts was insufficient, as the arrangement caused much delay and oftentimes pecuniary loss.

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